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# Federal Agency and Federal Library Reports

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## National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

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In 1991/1992, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) program activity focused on two commission-sponsored forums. The first was on the recommendations resulting from the July 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS). NCLIS heard from national library, information, and allied organizations about their plans for implementation of what they considered the most important of the 95 recommendations endorsed by WHCLIS delegates to the 1991 national conference. The second public forum, held in July 1992 in Washington, D.C., concerned the roles of libraries and information services in the National Research and Education Network (NREN). [For more information on NREN, see the Special Report earlier in Part 1—*Ed.*]

Congress approved an FY 1992 appropriation of \$831,000 for NCLIS, about \$100,000 more than the previous fiscal year. The major portion of this increased funding was used to complete activities related to WHCLIS, including preparation, printing, and distribution of the WHCLIS final report, *Information 2000: Library and Information Services for the 21st Century*. NCLIS staff began FY 1992 at 6.5 full-time-equivalent positions. A total of 1.5 staff vacancies occurred during the year, and consultants were engaged to perform work in various areas.

In March 1992, President Bush named J. Michael Farrell NCLIS chairperson. Elinor Swaim continued as vice chairperson throughout the year. Members of the commission are Shirley Adamovich, Daniel W. Casey, Carol DiPrete, Wanda Forbes, Norman Kelinson, Ben-Chieh Liu, James Lyons, Jerald Newman, Charles Reid, Kay Riddle, Winston Tabb (representing Librarian of Congress James Billington), Barbara Taylor, and Julia Li Wu.

### Highlights of the Year

#### White House Conference on Library and Information Services

The March 1992 NCLIS open forum on recommendations that resulted from the White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS) involved

27 representatives from various organizations, libraries, information services, and education, public, and human services interests. The commission published the transcripts and written statements as *Open Forum on Recommendations of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services* (U.S. GPO stock number 1992-322-804/60335).

The final WHCLIS report, *Information 2000: Library and Information Services for the 21st Century*, was published in November 1992 through GPO (ISBN 0-16-038157-6). A *Summary Report* was published in November 1991. The comprehensive 598-page *Final Report* reflects the work of over 700 delegates meeting July 9-13, 1991, in Washington, D.C., to formulate recommendations for improving library and information services for all Americans. The publication contains conference proceedings, presentations, sessions, recommendations considered by conference delegates, and an overview of conference planning, preparation, and process occurring prior to and immediately following the conference. The report reflects contributions made by more than 100,000 participants in the 61 preconference events that were held from April 1990 to May 1991.

### **Library and Information Services in a Network Environment**

NCLIS planned and conducted an open forum on the National Research and Education Network (NREN) included in the High-Performance Computing Act (PL 102-194, December 1991). Nineteen individuals from a variety of agencies and organizations spoke at the forum, and written statements were accepted through August. The commission report, summarizing the concerns and findings and offering clarification of the issues resulting from the six topics included in the 1991 act, was submitted to the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in November 1992. OSTP is required by statute to submit a report to Congress in December 1992 on these topics.

### **Library and Information Services to Native American Communities**

The commission concluded work on a final report titled *Pathways to Excellence: A Report on Improving Library and Information Services for Native American Peoples*. The report summarizes the results of NCLIS activities related to the status and condition of library and information services for Native Americans.

Commissioner Elinor Swaim, chairperson of the commission's Ad Hoc Committee on Library and Information Services to Native Americans, planned the report, which consists of a summary report and a reference volume including a strategic plan, summaries of NCLIS site visits and regional hearings, transcripts of hearings, commissioned papers from the Native American preconference to the White House Conference, tabulation and analysis of the petition adopted at WHCLIS, WHCLIS resolutions affecting Native Americans, resolutions from the 1991 White House Conference on Indian Education Relating to Library and Information Services, acknowledgments, and a bibliography. The two reports were published in early 1993.

### **Libraries and Education**

The commission also addressed the roles of libraries in support of education. In September 1991, the America 2000 Library Partnership was announced with the U.S. De-

partment of Education, the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, the National Institute for Literacy, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Library Partnership promotes the role of libraries in helping communities achieve the six National Goals for Education adopted by President Bush and state governors in 1989.

NCLIS is also devoting attention to the improvement and expansion of data collection on public library services for children and young people and to the development of SMARTLINE (Source for Materials and Research about Teaching and Learning in Nationwide Education), a Department of Education initiative to provide research and education information electronically to scholars, parents, educators, and students.

In addition, NCLIS is closely following a program initiated by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce: the Community Learning and Information Network (CLIN). CLIN is a shared initiative to apply high-performance network technologies to education, training, and commerce at the community level.

### **Library Statistics**

NCLIS continued to collaborate with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement in the U.S. Department of Education on a comprehensive and consistent national Library Statistics Program (LSP). A component of this LSP is the Federal-State Cooperative System for public library data (FSCS).

In March 1992, the 1990 public library data for all 50 states and the District of Columbia were released electronically. The printed publication from NCES was released in August. In December 1991, the commission planned a fourth annual FSCS Training Workshop in Baltimore, in which all 51 state data coordinators were asked to participate. The FSCS Steering Committee met three times in FY 1992.

The Library Statistics Program hosted a workshop on academic library statistics in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) for representatives from the 50 states and the District of Columbia in September 1992. Representatives agreed to collect statistics for 1992 from all the academic libraries in their states and to submit these data to NCES for publication. In April 1992, LSP hosted a meeting on the future of school library media center statistics.

The State Library Survey Planning Committee met in October 1992. The first meeting of the State Library Survey Committee is planned for December 1992.

### **Special Recognition Award Program**

In 1987, NCLIS established an awards program to recognize outstanding initiatives by individuals other than librarians and by nonlibrary organizations to improve and promote library and information services. Recipients of the 1992 awards were the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) and the Pagosa Springs (Colorado) Woman's Civic Club.

Special-achievement awards were presented to Joseph J. Fitzsimmons, president and CEO of University Microfilms International and vice chairperson of WHCLIS; and to John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress.

### **Support for Legislative and Executive Branches**

Chairperson J. Michael Farrell testified at a July 22 hearing on S. 2748, "Library of Congress Fund Act of 1992." He also submitted comments for the record regarding the July 23 hearing on bills S. 2831 and H.R. 2772 to establish federal electronic information gateways at the Government Printing Office.

NCLIS worked with the Legislative Reference Division of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which coordinates executive agencies' recommendations on proposed, pending, and enrolled legislation. In FY 1992, NCLIS received 20 legislative reference memoranda.

### **Conclusion**

As the 1991/1992 year came to a close, NCLIS's attention turned to the future, with an FY 1993 appropriation of \$889,000, the highest in the agency's history. Commissioners were busy planning for involvement in issues and programs relating to the role of libraries and information services in the emerging networked information infrastructure and in furthering programs for children's services and young adult literacy. The commission's office will also move to a new space in downtown Washington, D.C., in 1993.